

LOUGHBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31ST DAY OF
DECEMBER, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to lay before you my annual report of the health of your district during the year 1897, and following the custom of previous years I will commence with

MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths registered during the year as having occurred within the district was 73, but there were also 8 deaths of persons belonging to the district, which occurred outside, namely, 7 at Loughborough Workhouse, and one at Loughborough Hospital, bringing the total number of deaths of persons belonging to the district up to 81; this is an annual death rate of 17.5 per 1000 of the population, which is 2.5 above the average of the last seven years. This increased mortality does not indicate any lessened healthiness of the district, as it is mainly attributable to the fact that a larger number of old people than usual happened to die during the year, and also to the fact that the number of persons dying outside the district has not heretofore been added.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths from Zymotic diseases was 8, being three more than last year, and three above the average of the last four years. This increased Zymotic mortality was mainly attributable to croup, three deaths having occurred from this cause at Belton, and one at Burton. There was also one death from typhoid fever at Long Whatton and one at Belton, one from whooping cough at Hathern, and one from diarrhoea at Hoton.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered during the year was 95; this is an annual birth rate of 20.5 per 1000 of the population, which is a very low birth rate, as will be seen further on, in several of the parishes the number of births scarcely exceeds the number of deaths, and in a few the number of deaths is the higher; this indicates a decadence of the rural population.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION.

Twenty cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year; twenty-three certificates were received, three of these having reference to cases already notified. The diseases to which they had reference were as follows:—

SCARLET FEVER.

Seven cases of this disease were notified; they occurred in three separate outbreaks. The first outbreak was at Woodyton farm, Gracedieu, in March, and consisted of two cases; the first one was imported. The second occurred at Cotes, in April; the first case was imported, and spread to three other members of the family. The remaining case occurred at Burton-on-the-Wolds, in May, and no satisfactory cause could be assigned for its origin. In all these cases isolation was enjoined, instructions given as to the use of disinfectants, &c., and in neither case did the disease spread beyond the family first affected. There was no death from this disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

Five cases of this disease were notified. Four of these occurred at Woodyton farm, in connection with the scarlet fever mentioned above; they were of the type induced by and following on that disease. One other case occurred at Hathern, in February. There was no spread of the disease in either case beyond the family affected, neither was there any mortality.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Two cases of this disease occurred, both at Belton; each case arose independently. One occurred in September, and the other in December. No connection could be traced between these cases, or between either of them, and the diphtheria cases both terminated fatally.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Three cases of this disease were notified. One at Belton, in March, was traced to local insanitary conditions. One at The Square, Long Whatton, in June, in this case no cause could be assigned. One other case occurred at Long Whatton, The Turvey, in November, and was attributed to the water supply, which was found to be impure.

ERYSIPELAS.

Three cases of this disorder were notified during the year; they were of no sanitary significance.

I shall now proceed to deal with the parishes separately.

BELTON.

Births 15, deaths 13, infectious diseases notified 10, viz., scarlet fever 2, diphtheria 4, croup 2, typhoid fever 1, erysipelas 1. Death rate per 1000 of the population, 24.5

BURTON-ON-THE-WOLDS.

Births 6, deaths 5, one case of scarlet fever notified. Death rate 16.1.

CHARLEY.

Births 2, no deaths, one case of erysipelas notified.

HATHERN.

Births 26, deaths 23, infectious diseases notified, one case of diphtheria. Death rate 20.3.

HOTON.

Births 6, deaths 9, no infectious disease. Death rate 30.6.

LONG WHATTON.

Births 8, deaths 10, infectious diseases notified 3, viz., typhoid fever 2, erysipelas 1. Death rate 15.6.

PRESTWOLD AND COTES.

Births 2, deaths 2, four cases of scarlet fever notified. Death rate 14.1.

THORPE ACRE AND DISHLEY.

Births 6, deaths 4, no infectious disease. Death rate 20.6.

WOODTHORPE.

No births, no deaths, no infectious disease.

WYMESWOLD.

Births 17, deaths 15, no infectious disease. Death rate 17.7.

NANPANTON.

Births 7, no deaths, no infectious disease.

GARENDON.

No births, no deaths, no infectious disease.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the district, except the village of Nanpanton, is derived exclusively from wells, and this necessitates a constant watchfulness on the part of your Inspector, who has submitted to me for analysis fifteen samples of drinking water during the year; five of these samples were so impure as to justify me in condemning the water as unfit for drinking, and in each of these cases orders were made for the providing of a supply of potable water.

This is a matter of the gravest importance, as wells may become contaminated from accumulations of filth, midden privies, broken drains, &c., situated a long distance off, and no such accumulations should be permitted at a less distance than twenty yards.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF NIGHT SOIL AND HOUSE REFUSE.

The only system which exists in the district is the common midden and privy, and I am of opinion that this is best suited to the requirements of a rural district, provided the middens are constructed of impervious materials, not made too large, frequently emptied, and situated on a lower level than and at a sufficient distance from the well or other source of water supply.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I have from time to time, as circumstances demanded, made inspections of several portions of the district, generally by myself, and sometimes accompanied by the Inspector, for the purpose of making myself acquainted with the sanitary requirements of the district, in such matters as drainage, water supply, collection and disposal of night soil and refuse, housing of the working classes, &c.

I have also made particular inspections in cases of outbreaks of infectious diseases, overcrowding dirty houses, &c.

At the end of the year the district was quite free from infectious disease.

Appended are tabulated statistics of mortality, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities; also of population, births, and new cases of infectious sickness, classified according to ages and localities, copies of which and of this report, it will be necessary to send to the Local Government Board and to the Leicestershire County Council.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS CORCORAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Loughborough,

31st January, 1898.

TABULATED STATISTICS.

Mortality at all ages, 73; under one year, 9; one and under five 7; five and under fifteen, 4; fifteen and under twenty-five, 6; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 18; sixty-five and upwards, 29. Number of deaths in each parish: Belton 10, Burton-on-the-Wolds 4, Charley 0, Garendon 0, Hathern 22, Hoton 9, Long Whatton 10, Nanpanton 0, Prestwold and Cotes 2, Thorpe Acre and Dishley 2, Woodthorpe 0, Wymeswold 14. Mortality from subjoined causes, under five years: Membranous Croup 2, Whooping Cough 1, Diarrhoea 1, Bronchitis 3, all other diseases 9, total 16. Five years and upwards: Membranous Croup 2, Typhoid Fever 2, Phthisis 6, Bronchitis 9, Heart Disease 5, Injuries 1, all other diseases 32, total 57.

Births registered during the year, 95

Population, 1891 Census, 4620. Area of the district, 20344 acres. Death rates: general, 17.5 per 1000; infants under one year, 94 per 1000 births registered.

To the Chairman and Members of the Loughborough Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

During the past year ending Dec 31st, 1897, I have made 127 inspections, and 115 re-inspections in the parishes comprising your Council. The street drains are in a good condition, and the sewage ditches have been cleaned out where required. Fifteen samples of drinking water have been taken for analysis, three dirty houses have been cleaned, four wells emptied and cleansed, three new middens have been built and three repaired, sixteen ashpits have been emptied, nine drains have been taken up by the owners and cleansed, nine houses have been disinfected after infectious diseases, one factory has been cleansed and whitewashed, seven nuisances have been abated, and one case of overcrowding. I have found nothing to report when inspecting cowsheds.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. LOWE,

Sanitary Inspector.

Shepshed,

Feb. 12th, 1898.

